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82



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,803	07/27/2000	Robert B Gillig	GIL-001	9737
26918	7590	08/12/2004	EXAMINER	
WHITE & FUDALA 57 BEDFORD STREET SUITE 103 LEXINGTON, MA 02420			VAUGHN, GREGORY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

82

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,803

Applicant(s)

GILLIG, ROBERT B

Examiner

Gregory J. Vaughn

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9,13 and 27-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 8,9,13 and 27-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to application amendment. Application amendment filed on 4/20/2004.
2. Applicant has amended the specification and drawings in response to the objections cited by the examiner in the *Drawings* and *Specification* sections of the previous Office Action (dated 11/4/2003). Applicant's amendment has addressed all objections previously made and therefore, in view of this amendment, objections to the drawings and specification are withdrawn.
3. Applicant has canceled claims 1-7, 10-12 and 14-26.
4. Applicant has amended claims 8, 9 and 13.
5. Applicant has added new claims 27-29.
6. Rejections cited by the examiner in the *Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112* sections of the previous Office Action (dated 11/4/2003) are moot with regard to claims 15-26, as these claims have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections of claims 15-26, made under 35 USC § 112 second paragraph, have been withdrawn.
7. Applicant submitted new drawings, which were received on 4/20/2004. These drawings are accepted.
8. Claims 8, 9 13 and 27-29 are pending in the case. New claims 27 and 28 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

"A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States."

10. Claims 8, 9, 13 remain rejected and claims 27-29 are rejected under of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rossberg et al. US Patent 5,341,469, filed 5/13/1991, patented 8/23/1994, (hereinafter "Rossberg").

11. **Regarding new independent claim 27**, the claim recites:

"A computer-software-based system for generating and maintaining Project textual documentation comprising the software-implemented steps of

(a) in a first project, appending information to discrete electronically generated Drawing Entities for purposes of establishing an electronic link between said Drawing Entities and text, the method further comprising the steps of:

- (i) identifying a Drawing Entity contained in a CAD file;*
- (ii) identifying a grouping of text;*
- (iii) creating Linking information between said Drawing Entity and said text;*
- (iv) scanning a multiplicity of CAD files, each containing a multiplicity of new Drawing Entities;*
- (v) repeating steps (i) through (iii) for the new Drawing Entities;*
- (vi) associating all linking information with the corresponding Drawing Entity;*
- (vii) storing each Drawing Entity, and corresponding text, together with the associated linking information;*
- (viii) generating a printed Project Specifications Document comprising all text associated with said Drawing Entities;*

*(b) repeating the previous steps for Drawing Entities not yet linked to text in a next project; and
(c) creating a next Project Specification Document from the stored Drawing Entities, corresponding text, and associated linking information combined with the text of the next project."*

Regarding the preamble of the claim, Rossberg recites: *"It is a principal object of the present invention to provide a structured text system that is automated for the production of finished project plans and specifications"* (column 2, lines 35-38).

Regarding the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg recites: *"information in the form of notes is included on project drawings 20 for use in conjunction with the knowledge base to edit the specifications. Which information in notes as is useful for automated editing is also amendable"* (column 5, lines 52-56 and Figure 1) and *"Still another object of the present invention is to provide a computer system having both graphics and text manipulation facilities for linking project drawings with a master specification system utilizing keynotes"* (column 2, lines 49-52). Rossberg further recites: *"The system uses keynote references that are inserted into other documents, such as drawings produced by a CAD system, to construct a partial project knowledge base, which knowledge base is then used to guide the editing of a master specification to yield an initial project plans and specifications"* (Abstract) and *"To edit a section, a computer program is preferably utilized to produce the answers to the questions associated with the section. Such program can ask the writer directly, or can both utilize other sources and only ask the writer for information not present in such sources"* (column 5, lines 40-45).

Regarding the first, second and third steps of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg discloses identifying a drawing entity in Figure 6B (shown as "*Drawing in binary form*"). Rossberg also discloses drawings (shown as "*Project Drawings*") combined with text (shown as "*Master Keynote List*") in Figure 1. Rossberg also recites "*still another object of the present invention is to provide a computer system having both graphics and text manipulation facilities for linking project drawings with a master specification system*" (column 2, lines 49-52).

Regarding the fourth step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg recites: "*The keynote references are included on the CAD drawings, or like computer readable documents, from which they may be extracted for later use in constructing or updating a project knowledge base*" (Abstract) (compare "*Multiplicity of CAD files*" to "*CAD Drawings*").

Regarding the fifth step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg recites: "*The high level processing of the documents and the elements they contain is performed by the functions in FIG. 5B. The function "prp" processes the entire project. It takes the same collection of sets described earlier. The set of answers constitutes the knowledge base for the project. ... This is repeated until no documents remain to be processed*" (column 14, lines 30-42).

Regarding the sixth step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg recites: "*A computer system has been developed which takes advantage of the graphics and text manipulation facilities of these existing programs and links the drawings with the specifications using keynotes*" (column 2, line 68 to column 3, line 4).

Regarding the seventh step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg discloses a database relationship table in Figure 3A that stores the drawing entity (shown as "*Element, Doc, ID*") with the corresponding text (shown as "*Text, ID, Symbol*") where the "*ID*" is the linking element.

Regarding the eighth step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg discloses in Figure 1 at reference sign 24, a printed "*Project Specification Document*" that is the text associated with the drawings.

Regarding the second limitation of the claim, Rossberg recites: "*The high level processing of the documents and the elements they contain is performed by the functions in FIG. 5B. The function "prp" processes the entire project. It takes the same collection of sets described earlier. The set of answers constitutes the knowledge base for the project. ... This is repeated until no documents remain to be processed*" (column 14, lines 30-42).

Regarding the third limitation of the claim, Rossberg discloses in Figure 1 stored drawing entities (shown at reference sign 22) combined with the text and linking information (shown at reference sign 22) to create a next project specification (shown at reference sign 24).

12. **Regarding new independent claim 28**, Applicant states in the 4/20/2004 amendment that "*claim 28 of the present invention contains the same steps*" (page 12, line 4), and therefore, the claim is directed toward a method for the system of claim 27 and is rejected using the same rationale.

13. **Regarding new dependent claim 29**, Rossberg recites: "*This invention relates to systems that utilize computers for performing operations on data obtained from a user or data stored within a system in electronic, magnetic or optical form, to produce a set of printed documents which constitute a project specific specification that is coordinated with a set of drawings*" (Column 2, lines 58-63)
14. **Regarding amended dependent claim 8**, Rossberg recites: "*This invention relates to systems that utilize computers for performing operations on data obtained from a user or stored data to produce a set of printed documents which constitute a project specific specification that is coordinated with a set of drawings to produce a set of plans and specifications for an architectural or engineering project*" (column 1, lines 6-12).
15. **Regarding amended dependent claim 9**, Rossberg recites: "*The present system set out in FIG. 1 incorporates a master specification 21 that can be the MASTERSPEC or SPECTEXT systems, as identified in the prior art, or other systems within the scope of this disclosure*" (column 3, lines 55-58).
16. **Regarding amended dependent claim 13**, Rossberg discloses in figure 2 at reference sign 26 a stand-alone computer.

Response to Arguments

17. Applicant's arguments, filed 4/20/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding independent claims 27 and 28, the applicant states "*Rossberg uses a purely manual method of associating Keynotes, which Rossberg uses as a manual analog of the links of the present invention*" (page 11, lines 18-19). The applicant is directed to the rejection of claims 27 and 28 as presented above. In further support of the rejection Rossberg recites: "*a computer program is preferably utilized to produce the answers to the questions associated with the section. Such program can ask the writer directly, or can both utilize other sources and only ask the writer for information not present in such sources*" (column 5, lines 40-45). Regarding the third step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg discloses identifying a drawing entity in Figure 6B (shown as "*Drawing in binary form*"). Rossberg also discloses drawings (shown as "*Project Drawings*") combined with text (shown as "*Master Keynote List*") in Figure 1. Rossberg also recites "*still another object of the present invention is to provide a computer system having both graphics and text manipulation facilities for linking project drawings with a master specification system*" (column 2, lines 49-52).

Regarding the fifth step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg recites: "*The high level processing of the documents and the elements they contain is performed by the functions in FIG. 5B. The function "prp" processes the entire project. It takes the same collection of sets described earlier. The set of answers constitutes the*

knowledge base for the project. ... This is repeated until no documents remain to be processed" (column 14, lines 30-42).

Regarding the seventh step of the first limitation of the claim, Rossberg discloses a database relationship table in Figure 3A that stores the drawing entity (shown as "*Element, Doc, ID*") with the corresponding text (shown as "*Text, ID, Symbol*") where the "*ID*" is the linking element.

Conclusion

18. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (703) 305-4672. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 2178

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (703) 308-5465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory J. Vaughn
August 2, 2004


(STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER